



Captain E. L. Alexander
Commanding Officer

Seattle Washington

7 Feb 2008

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

I hope the Christmas Holidays were safe and enjoyable for everyone. It sure felt good to be in port this year. We have been busy preparing for our next deployment. As always there has been much work accomplished while in port and the ship is looking great.

We are scheduled to depart on 23 February, and our assignment should take us south to warmer climates. As you know from our last deployment though, the tasking could change on short notice depending on the needs of the service. However, wherever we are sent and whatever we are assigned to do, I am confident in our skills and ability to complete the mission.

I wanted to use this letter to talk about something important to our family. As we prepare for another transfer season, we will be saying goodbye to two of our three Unit Ombudsmen, Alexandra Bird and Jeri Garcia. Alex and Jeri have done a tremendous job these past few years and I am deeply in their debt for representing the command so well while we are deployed, and coordinating so many activities and support. We are fortunate that Norma Bailey will remain in her position as Ombudsman. Norma brings with her years of experience and dedication to our family and the Service. We are also fortunate to have Angela Keane volunteer to take one of the empty Ombudsmen positions. I know she will be a great representative. We would like to have at least one other spouse volunteer to fill this important position. I would encourage anyone interested in supporting the unit through the Ombudsman program to volunteer by contacting Alex, Jeri or Norma.

What is an Ombudsman?? An Ombudsman is a volunteer (who may be a spouse, reservist, or Auxiliarist) that is designated by Commanding Officer to serve as a link between the command and our families. You will assist the command in its functions of providing information and related services to families regarding sources of assistance available to them, Coast Guard and command policies, and activities of interest to family members. Occasionally you will take confidential concerns of the families to the command so an Ombudsman needs to be able to distinguish between issues suitable for public discussion and those requiring confidentiality. You must have good interpersonal and organization skills, and above all a positive attitude about life in general and about the Coast Guard in particular. You must be a good listener and above all, be considered trustworthy.

Midgett is a great unit with a tradition of service to our nation to be especially proud of. Part of the secret to our success is the unqualified support we receive from our families. That support does not come without sacrifice though, and the Ombudsman program is a way we can provide support to our families while we are away. I encourage each of the spouses reading this to consider this important position.

As I mentioned earlier, the transfer season will soon be here. I too will be moving on this year. My relief will be Captain Matthew Miller. Captain Miller is a veteran of Midgett having served before as XO. We certainly are lucky to be welcoming him and his wife Iliana and their children Emilie, Kellie and Jack back into the family this summer.

Keep checking our WEB site <http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/midgett/index.html> for updates and news of our patrol. I will continue to use these letters to keep you up to speed on what is going on during the deployment.

Semper Paratus


E. L. ALEXANDER